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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

newsletter

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*We must show the
world what a
free economy can do
...to put unused
capacity to work,
spur new
productivity and
foster higher
economic growth.
President Kennedy.*

As a further step in gearing Department of Agriculture services to a greatly expanded program of Rural Areas Development, Secretary Freeman on June 16 assigned specific responsibilities to Departmental agencies and set up a new Office of Rural Areas Development to coordinate the program.

Turley Mace, previously assistant to John A. Baker, Director of Agricultural Credit, was named to head the new office, which will operate under policy guidance of the Rural Areas Development Board representing 12 Department of Agriculture agencies.

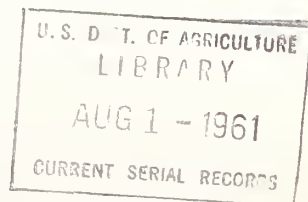
Federal Extension Service and Farmers Home Administration were assigned the crucial job of helping organize State and local economic development programs. Rural Electrification Administration was given responsibility for stimulating industrial growth in rural areas.

In addition each agency represented on the RAD Board was assigned a role in the program.

NEW ORGANIZATION SPEEDS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Federal Extension Service Administrator has been asked to assume responsibility for forming and stimulating Rural Areas Development Committees in all States. These committees will include representatives of such State organizations and agencies as College of Agriculture, Farmers Cooperative Council, Industrial Development Agency, Farmer's Organizations, Rural Electric or Telephone Cooperatives, Planning Commission, Employment Service, and Education Department.

In those States already having a Rural Development Committee, some change in organization may be required to meet this pattern. The State Director of Extension is responsible for seeing that the committee is formed and operating effectively. He and other agency officials will be members of the committee without, however, taking part in voting or policy-making.



At the area level, committees of local leaders will be formed covering geographical areas of one or more counties that fit into an economic or trade area. These committees will develop an economic program for their localities. They will also take steps necessary to activate the program.

The Farmers Home Administration at the State level has been asked to coordinate the work of Department of Agriculture agencies. These agencies formed as a panel (or committee) will service the State committee with technical assistance.

At the area level the Farmers Home Administration will assure that technical committees of Department of Agriculture agency representatives servicing the area are formed and stand ready to provide technical assistance to the area committee of local leaders.

Rural Electrification Administration will assume responsibility for stimulating industrial and commercial development.

USDA AREA DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SUPPLEMENT LOCAL RESOURCES

In addition to the Office of Rural Areas Development, 11 agencies of the Department have personnel, facilities, and programs which are helping solve problems of underemployment in all rural areas. Following is a summary of these programs:

Rural Electrification Administration, through its field representatives, is providing technical guidance and help to its borrowers in assisting in rural industry surveys and programs. In cooperation with borrowers, REA provides technical assistance for the development, construction, and operation of processing plants and other industrial and commercial enterprises.

Farmers Home Administration program is designed specifically for assistance to low-income groups. FHA has broad authority to help farmers acquire, improve, and develop farms, finance the acquisition of livestock and equipment, refinance debts, improve rural housing, and advance funds for operating purposes.

Extension Service, as the educational arm of the Department, has a crucial role in area development. Extension creates an awareness of problems and motivates people to analyze them. It gives leadership to local groups in organizing for development; making analyses of needs, resources, and potentials; and planning for solutions through group action. In addition, Extension workers advise with rural youth and adults on job opportunities in and outside of agriculture.

Soil Conservation Service also has an important role in area development. Communities confronted with major changes in land use or seeking to develop special or new land uses may call upon SCS for needed soil surveys, interpretation of soil maps, and land capability inventories. The advice and financial assistance of SCS is also available for water resource development and flood prevention in small watersheds to assist communities plan and install watershed projects. SCS also provides technical assistance for public facilities development and rural industries location.

Forest Service, cooperating with State foresters, assists in the proper use of forest lands. The Forest Service, with the help of local groups, also assists in developing areas to provide recreational opportunities and more and better raw materials for both new and expanding wood using industries.

Economic Research Service, cooperating with State Experiment Stations and other research groups, supports local development programs through economic and marketing research which supplies information needed in developing sound local projects. ERS assists in the analysis of population data for specified rural areas to help determine the extent of unemployment and underemployment.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service develops special cost-sharing programs of land conservation and development on farms; makes payments for compliance with approved soil and water conservation practices; and supplies information concerning price support and marketing agreements.

Farmer Cooperative Service provides technical aid in the establishment of cooperatives to carry out industrial development in rural areas and in the establishment of farmer purchasing and marketing cooperatives.

Agricultural Marketing Service provides technical information in the marketing of agricultural products and in the development of markets for industrial products produced as a result of an area development program.

Agricultural Research Service studies techniques leading to more efficient and less costly farming; conducts studies, and supplies technical information relating to the use of both agricultural and industrial products.

Statistical Reporting Service maintains current inventories of changes in farm production, farm employment, and rural underemployment and, when requested, makes surveys to obtain needed statistical information.

AREA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, A FURTHER AID IN RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

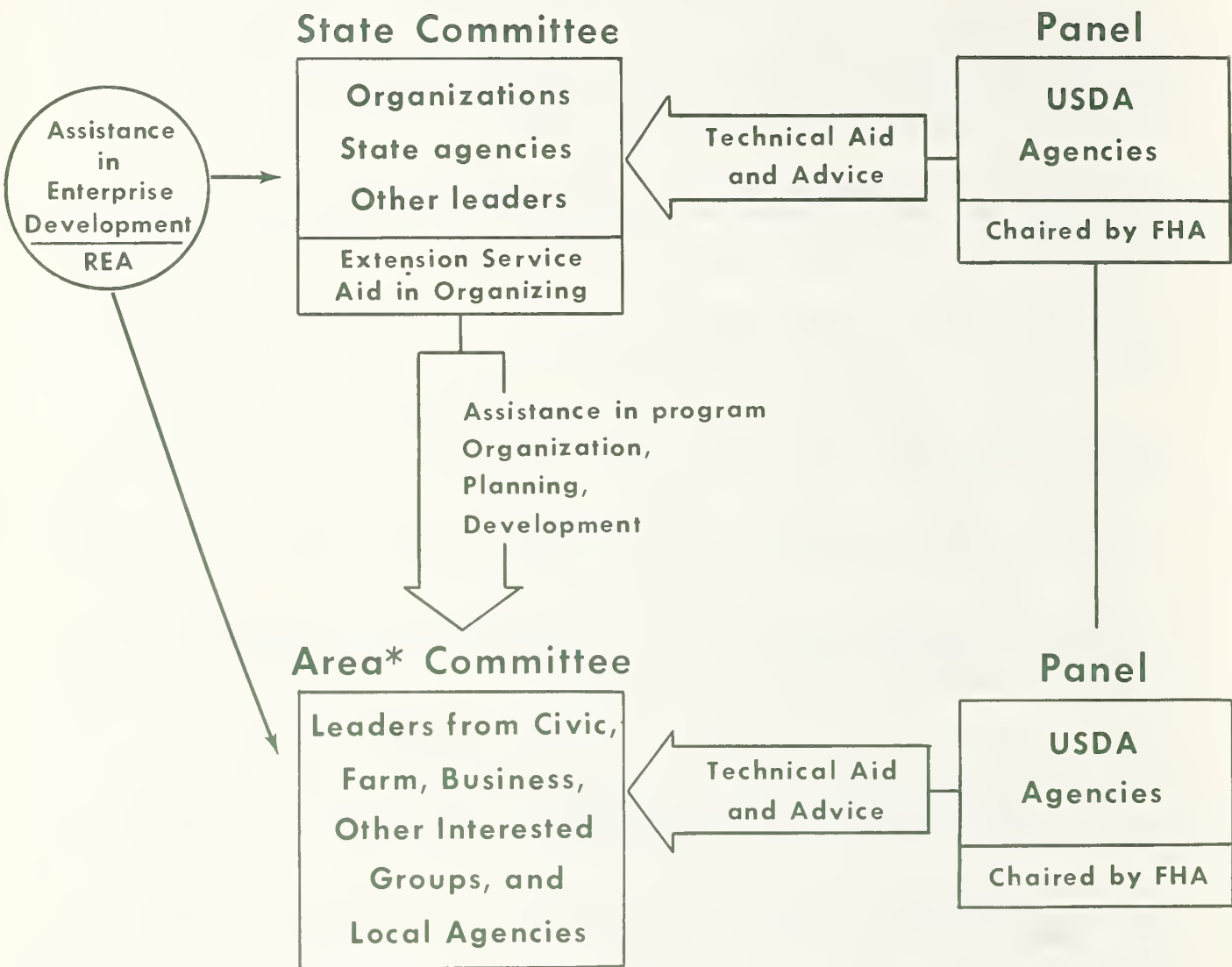
The Area Redevelopment Program, authorized under Public Law 87-27, will fit into the overall Rural Areas Development Program as an additional tool in supplying loan funds, technical aid, and other assistance.

On June 9, the U. S. Commerce Department designated 114 labor market areas in 29 States and Puerto Rico as eligible to receive special aid under the new Act.

Within the near future, it is expected, the Department of Commerce will name eligible rural areas of serious low income. Through the Rural Areas Development Program, Department of Agriculture agencies will assist local leaders in these rural areas to develop required economic programs and apply for benefits.

The Departments of Commerce and Agriculture and other Federal agencies are presently working out procedures for administering the new program in eligible labor market and rural underemployment areas. Department of Agriculture panels assisting State Rural Areas Development Committees will be able to supply details as these become available.

RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STATE ORGANIZATION



* ONE OR MORE COUNTIES BASED ON COMMON ECONOMIC INTEREST AND PROBLEMS AND NATURAL BOUNDARY LINES.



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